1 Kimberly E. Colwell, Esq. (SBN: 127604) kcolwell@meyersnave.com 2 Tricia L. Hynes, Esq. (SBN: 212550) thynes@meyersnave.com OCT 3 0 2007 3 MEYERS, NAVE, RIBACK, SILVER & WILSON 555 12th Street, Suite 1500 4 Oakland, CA 94607 ERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT ERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Telephone: (510) 808-2000 5 Facsimile: (510) 444-1108 6 Attorneys for Defendants CITY OF PETALUMA and E-filing 7 OFFICER PAUL ACCORNERO 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT ADR 9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 SI Case No: **CO7** – 05 5 2 4 MELVIN ATKINS. 11 Plaintiff, 12 DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL **OF ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331** 13 and 1441(b) & (c) CITY OF PETALUMA; PETALUMA POLICE [Removal based on Federal Question] DEPARTMENT: OFFICER PAUL 14 ACCORNERO; and DOES 1 through 100. inclusive. 15 Defendants. 16 17 TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT: 18 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT DEFENDANTS CITY OF PETALUMA and OFFICER 19 PAUL ACCORNERO hereby remove to this Court the state court action described below: 20 21 On September 14, 2007, an action was commenced in the Superior Court of the State of 22 California, in and for the County of Marin, entitled "MELVIN ATKINS, Plaintiff v. CITY OF PETALUMA; PETALUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT; OFFICER PAUL ACCORNERO; and DOES 23 1 through 100, inclusive, Defendants." It was assigned case number CV-074392 by the Marin County 24 Superior Court. This action is attached hereto as Exhibit A. 25 26 1. Defendants were served with the Summons and Complaint on or about October 4, 2007. 27 28 ///

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2. This action is a civil action in which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1441(b) & (c) in that the nature of the claims purport to arise under the Constitution and laws of the United States. Specifically, the action alleges violations of Plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution through 42 U.S.C. § 1983, in that Plaintiff alleges that "[he] was denied his Federal Constitutional rights...." Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants "...deprived him of liberty without due process of law, in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States...." (Complaint, p. 5, ¶ 21 and p. 6, ¶ 24).

Dated: October 30, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,

MEYERS, NAVE, RIBACK, SILVER & WILSON

By:_

Kimberly E. Colwell
Attorneys for Defendants
CITY OF PETALUMA and
OFFICER PAUL ACCORNERO

Defs C/Petaluma's and Officer Paul Accornero's Notice of Removal of Action

EXHIBIT A

0CT-03-2007 (PESE 03:07-cv-05524-SI INC Document 1 09/14/2007 09:28 FAX 4153312738 函 005/014 3UM-100 SUMMONS POR COURT USE ONLY SOLD FARA USE DIFLA CORTES (CITACION JUDICIAL) NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO) CITY OF PETALUMA; PETALUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT: OFFICER PAUL ACCORNERO; and DOES I through 100 SEP 1 4 2007 inclusive HIM TURNER YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) : MELVIN ATKINS Hy. J. Chen, Deputy You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to tile a written response at this court and have a suppreserved on the pigintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you wont the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response, You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courte Online Self-Heip Canter (www.courtinjo.co.gov/selfholp), your county less library, or the countnesses nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clock for a fac welver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may, want to call an attorney right eway, if you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be aligible for free legal services from a comprolit legal services program. You can locals these conprofit groups at the California Logal Sarvices Web site (www.lewhelpcalifornia.org), the California Counts Colline Said-Help Center (www.countinfo.os.goviselinelp), or by contacting your local count or county bar association. Tiane 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despude de que la entreguen este oktojón y popojor jogolor persenter una tespúsate por escrito an esta corta y hacar que so entregua una copia el demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegan. En respuesta por escrito dena que axiar en formato logal correcto si desea que procesan su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que untod punde transpura en respuesta. Punde ancumer estos formularios de la corte y más infinimación en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/anifoalp/anpanol), on le biblioteca de layen de nu condado o en la aorte que la quade más cetca. Si no puede pager la cuela de presentación, pide al secretario de la corta que le dé un fermulario de exención de pago de cuelas. El no presente su respuesta a Hampo, pusde perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podré quiter su suelde, dinero y bienos sin más advantencia. Hay otros requisitos logales. Es recomundable que lleme e on abogado hunsdistamente. El po conoce e un abogado, puede llamor e un servicio de remisión a spogados. Si no puede pegara un ebugado, os posible que comple den los requisitos para obtener cervicios legales gratuitos de un programa de auryicios logalos sin finos de lutro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin finos de lutro en el cillo web de California Legal.Services, (www.lawhelpcallfornia.org), en el Conbu da Ayush da ha Corfoz de California, (www.courdinfo.co.gov/selfuelp/espenny) o paniéndoto on contacto con la surte o el calegio do altogados (ocales, The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corta es). **ስ**ፖለዳዓያ MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT 3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE San Rafael, ca 94903 The name, eddress, and telephone number of pisintiffs attorney, or pizintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombro, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): A. CABRAL BONNER, ESQ. SB#247528 415-331-3079 1913 BRIDGEWAY SAUSALITO, CA 94965 DATE: SEP 1 4 2007 Donuty (Footia) (Secretario) (Adjunto) (For proof of service of this summans, useProof of Service of Summanc (form POS 610). (Para prueba de entrega de esle cliatión use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)). NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served HEAL imbnelsb laublyibni na eo 🔝 is the poison eved under the fictions name of (specify): a. On behalf of (specify): C, L, OC. under: CCP 415.10 (corporation) CCP 415.60 (minor) CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) T CCP 416.70 (conservates) I CCP 415.40 (accordation or portnormhip) CCP 416.90 (authorized person) 4. Dy portional delivery on (deta): Paue 1 of 1 SUMMONS Code of Ciri Processes stranging see

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1 2 3 4 5	CHARLES A. BONNER, ESO. (SB# 85413) A. CABRAL BONNER, ESO. (SB# 247528) LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES A. BONNER 1913 BRIDGEWAY SAUSALITO, CA 94965 TEL. (415) 331-9070 FAX: (415) 331-2738 ATTORNEYS FOR FLAINTIFF MELVIN ATKINS	•
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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA	
9	COUNTY OF MARIN	
10	UNLIMITED JURISDICTION	1
11	BY FAX	ı
12:	MELVIN ATKINS, Caso No.CV 074392	
13	· Pialoniff Complaint for Damages	
14	1 VIOLATION OF CIVIL	
15	POLICE DEPARTMENT: OFFICER PAUL 2 VIOLATION OF CIVIL	
16	inclusive, 3 NEGLIGENCE:	
17	Defendants. DELIBERATE INDIRECTENCE	
18	6. INTENTIONAL INSLICTION	
19	7 REGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:	
20	8 TRESPASS TO CHATTELS	
21	Jury Trial Demanded	
22	INTRODUCTION	
23	This is a complaint for damages against THE CITY OF PETALUMA (hereinafter	
24	"DEFENDANT CITY"); PETALUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT (Deroinsfler 'DEFENDANT	
25	POLICE DEPARTMENT'); and PAUL ACCORNERO), Fetaluma Police Officer (hereinafter	
26	'DEFENDANT ACCORNERO'); for violations of Plaintiff's constitutional and common law rights.	
27	Plaintiff alloges that DEFENDANT ACCORNERO negligamly allowed his K-9 attack dog off the	
28	leash in violation of city and county ordinances. DEFENDANT ACCORNERD's negligance	
	COMPLAINTFOR DAMAGES	
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resulted in an unprovoked and vicious attack by the K-9 against Plaintiff. The attack caused Plaintiff to suffer severe physical injuries, constant physical pain, and permanent mental and psychic anguish. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants CITY and POLICE DEPARTMENT are liable for failing to adequately train and supervise Police Officers responsible for victous and deadly K-9 attack dogs.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- On December 19, 2006, at approximately 6:25 a.m., Plaintiff MELVIN ATKINS 1. (hereinafter 'MR. ATKINS') was riding a bicycle down the street across from the local Shcriff Department Station in Marin City. As MR. ATKINS rode past, a Petaluma Police Department officer (DEFENDANT ACCONERO) was taking his K-9 attack dog, a Belgian Malinois named Roy, from the back of a patrol car. The dog saw MR. ATKINS and bolted towards him as if to attack. Startled, knowing that police K-9s are highly trained attack dogs, MR. ATKINS hit his brukes hard, causing him to fly forward over the handle bars and into the air.
- As the dog approached, MR. ATKINS heard Defendant ACCORNERO give the dog 2. a "NO!" command. MR. ATKINS hit the ground hard with a thud. Dazed, MR. ATKINS could feel the dog biting him in several different spots on his body. After the attack, MR. ATKINS could feel DEFENDANT ACCORNERO trying to place himself between MR. ATKINS and the dog, while continuing to give the dog the "NOI" command, As MR. ATKINS lay on the ground, he could see DEFENDANT ACCORNERO physically carrying the dog away in his arms and continuing to give the "NO!" command as the dog continued to bark
- MR. ATKINS, in pain but mistakenly believing the pain would subside, waited about 3. 5-10 minutes before riding away. Later that day, MR. ATKINS was seen at Marin General Hospital. MR. ATKINS suffered physical damage as well as emotional and psychic trauma.
- As a result of the negligence of DEFENDANT ACCONERO, and the failure of DEFENDANTS CITY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT to properly train its officers and attack dogs. and for showing deliberate indifference towards the rights of US citizens, MR. ATKINS suffered severe damage to his right arm, including injuries to his right elbow and forearm. In addition to MR. ATKINS physical injuries, he suffered permanent psychological injury from this unprovoked, victors attack that would not have happened but for the negligence of the defendants.

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JURISDICTION

This action is brought pursuant to the laws of the State of California, California Civil 5. Code §52.1, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983, 1988 and the Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

YENUE

Venue is proper in this judicial district because Plaintiff's injuries, damages and harm, 6. including the violation of Plaintiff's Civil Rights occurred in this judicial district. Further, one or more of the DEFENDANTS reside and conduct business in this judicial district.

PARTIES

- At all times herein mentioned, Plaintiff, MELVIN ATKINS, was and is a resident of 7. Marin City. County of Marin, State of California.
- At all times herein mentioned, DEFENDANT ACCONERO was the employee, agent, 8. servant, subcontractor, or other representative of DEFENDANTS CITY and POLICE DEPARTMENT, and in doing the things alleged hereinafter, was acting in the course and scope of his employment, agency, or other representation, and with the permission and consent of the City Council of Petaluma and/or the Petaluma Police Department.
- 9. At all times herein mentioned, DEFENDANT ACCORNERO was acting under color of law, to wit: under the color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, customs, and usages of the State of California, and the City of Petaluma.
- 10. The City of Petaluma is a municipality duly incorporated under the laws of the State of California.

DOE DEFENDANTS

Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, 11. associate, or otherwise of DEFENDANT Does 1 through 100 inclusive and therefore sue these DEFENDANTS by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend his complaint to allege their true names and capacities when this has been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believe and thereon. allege these named DEFENDANTS, and each of them, are legally responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged, and that DEFENDANTS legally caused Plaintiff's injuries and

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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damages as herein alleged.

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- All of the described conduct, acts, and failures to act are attributed to agents and 12. employees under the direction and control, and with the permission, consent, ratification and authorization of DEFENDANTS. Said acts, conduct and failures to act were within the scope of such agency and employment. At all times relevant herein, each participant was acting within the course and scope of his or her employment.
- DEFENDANTS CITY and POLICE DEPARTMENT are responsible for the actions, 13. policies and practices of its agents and employees. At all relevant times, DEFENDANTS CITY and POLICE DEPARTMENT were and continue to be responsible for assuring that the actions of their agents and employees comply with the United States and California Constitutions, Federal and State civil rights laws, other statutes and common law.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Before invoking the jurisdiction of this Court, on May 18 2007, Plaintiff filed a claim 14. for personal injuries with the CITY OF PETALUMA, pursuant to Government Code Section 910. The CITY OF PETALUMA denied Plaintiff's claim on June 29, 2007.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS) (42 U.S.C. Section 1983; Use of Excessive Force) Against all Defendants

- Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding 15. paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- At all times herein mentioned, DEFENDANT had an obligation to comply with the law as set forth in the Fourth Amendment and due process requirement of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, guaranteeing Mr. ATKINS right to be secure in his person and to be free from DEFENDANT'S use of excessive force against him. By failing to secure ROY and by allowing ROY to attack Mr. Atkins, DEFENDANT violated MR. ATKINS constitutionally guaranteed protections.
- On December 19, 2006, DEFENDANT, through his attack dog "Roy," used 17. unnecessary and excessive force on MR. ATKINS. DEFENDANT's attack dog attacked MR.

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ATKINS, caused him to fall off his bicycle, and bit him several times on his arm. Despite giving
the "NO!" command several times, DEFENDANT ACCONERO'S attack dog did not stop attacking
MR. ATKINS until DEFENDANT ACCONERO physically pulled the attack dog off MR. ATKINS'
person. As a result of the unnecessary and excessive force, MR. ATKINS suffered severe physical
injury and permanent psychological damage. There is no justification for why DEFENDANT
ACCONERO allowed his unleashed attack dog onto the street, or for why the attack dog did not
respond to repeated "NO!" commands from DEFENDANT ACCONERO, his handling officer.

- 18. At all times herein relevant, DEFENDANT ACCONERO was an employee of DEFENDANTS CITY AND POLICE DEPARTMENT.
- 19. At all times herein relevant, DEFENDANT ACCONERO acted or purported to act within the course and scope of their employment and under color of law.
- 20. In the conduct described above, DEFENDANTS acted willfully, wantonly, mallclously, oppressively, and with conscious disregard and deliberate indifference for MR. ATKINS' rights and are therefore liable for punitive damages.
- 21. As a legal cause of DEFENDANTS' practices, conduct and acts alleged herein, MR. ATKINS was denied his Federal Constitutional rights, and as a legal cause, he suffered, and continues to suffer, mental, emotional, physical and psychological distress, humiliation, embarrassment, anxiety, and pain.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as horoinafter provided.

(VIOLATION OF UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS) (42 U.S.C. Section 1985 and 1983) Against all Defendants

- 22. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. MR. ATKINS is informed and believes and thereon alleges that DEFENDANTS agreed and conspired to fabricate false incident reports regarding the incidents surrounding the December 19, 2006 attack on MR. ATKINS.
 - 24. By means of their unlawful, negligent acts leading to the vicious attack on MR.

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ATKINS, and their deliberate indifference regarding the training of its officers and attack dogs.
DEFENDANTS conspired to interfere with MR. ATKINS civil rights and deprived him of liberty
without due process of law, in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the
Constitution of the United States and 42 U.S.C. Sections 1983 and 1985

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENCE) Against all Defendants

- 25. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 26. At the time of the incident, DEFENDANT ACCONERO was acting as a police officer for DEFENDANT CITY and DEFENDANT POLICE DEPARTMENT.
- 27. DEFENDANT ACCONERO was negligent in failing to use reasonable care in the handling and control of his vicious attack dog, Roy. DEFENDANT ACCONERO was negligent in allowing his attack dog off the leash and into the street to commit an attack on an unsuspecting U.S. citizen, MR. ATKINS.
- 28. DEFENDANT ACCONERO did not act as a reasonably product officer in the situation. As a legal cause of DEFENDANT ACCORNERO's negligent acts and failure to act productly, MR. ATKINS was denied his Federal right against the use of excessive force, as well as his State rights. And, as a legal cause, he suffered, and continues to suffer, mental, emotional, physical and psychological distress, humiliation, embarrassment, anxiety, and pain.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENT TRAINING and DELIBERATE INDIFFERENCE) Against All Defendants

- 29. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 30. On December 19, 2006, during the course of his employment, DEFENDANT ACCONERO recklessly, unlawfully, and negligently inflicted fear and violence upon Plaintiff.
 - 31. DEFENDANTS CITY and POLICE DEPARTMENT were negligent in failing to

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afford DEFENDANT ACCORNERO, the proper and special training necessary for the duties they could foreseeably expect him to perform in the course of his employment in that DEFENDANT ACCONERO received inadequate training in regards to bandling and controlling his attack dog.

32. As a direct and proximate result of the failure to adequately train DEFENDANT ACCONERO, and DEFENDANT CITY'S and DEFENDANT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S deliberate indifference towards the rights of MR. ATKINS, ME. ATKINS suffered unnecessary and excessive force which included DEFENDANT ACCONERO'S attack dog Roy attacking, biting, and causing MR. ATKINS to fall hard from his bicycle. The attack by the dog caused MR. ATKINS to suffer severe physical, mental and canotional pain, and other damages, including permanent lifelong emotional injuries.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (ASSAULT AND BATTERY) Against All Defendants

- 33. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 34. At the time of the incident, DEFENDANT ACCORNERO was acting as a Police Officer for DEFENDANT POLICE DEPARTMENT and DEFENDANT CITY.
- 35. DEFENDANT ACCONERO is responsible for allowing his attack dog to assault and batter MR. ATKINS and subject MR. ATKINS to harmful and offensive touching without his agreement and consent.
 - 36. As a result of the assault and battery, Plaintiff suffered damages as aforesaid.

 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS) Against All Defendants

37. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.

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38. That by reason of the DEFENDANTS' extreme, outrageous and unwarranted intentional acts as herein above alleged, MR. ATKINS was caused to suffer severe mental, emotional, and psychic distress, humiliation, emberrassment, fear, anxiety, depression and extreme shock.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided,

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION (NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS) Against all Defendants

- 39. Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 40. That by reason of the DEFENDANTS', extreme, outrageous and unwarranted negligent acts as herein above alleged, MR. ATKINS was oaused to suffer severe mental, emotional, and psychic distress, humiliation, embarrassment, fear, anxiety, depression and extreme shock.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION (TRESPASS TO CHATTELS) Against all Defendants

- Plaintiff MR. ATKINS re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. DEFENDANTS intentionally interfered with MR. ATKINS' lawful possession of his bicycle, and other personal effects. Such interference caused quantifiable damage to the bicycle and personal effects of MR. ATKINS.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION (VIOLATIONS OF MARIN COUNTY CODE) (Section 8.04.175) Against all Defendants

- 43. Plaintiff Mr. Atkins re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein, the proceeding paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.
 - 44. Marin County Code, Chapter 8, section 8.04.175 "Dog control by responsible

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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1	person" states:				
2	Dogs shall at all times be kept under the immediate control and direction of a				
3	responsible person. Any dog which is not subject to such control and direction may be seized and impounded. (Ord. 3377 § 1 (part), 2003)				
4	45.	DEFENDANT ACCORNERO did not keep his attack dog, Roy, under his			
5	"immediate o	control and direction," and therefore violated section 8.04.175. On December 19,			
6	2006, the attack dog Roy was not under physical restraint by the person (Defendant Accomero)				
7	responsible for Roy's handling.				
8	46.	DEFENDANT ACCORNERO'S failure to place his attack dog Roy under			
9	physical restraint caused the shocking, outrageous, unprovoked attack of MR. ATKINS, resulting				
10	in severe phy	sical injuries, physical pain, as well as ongoing and permanent mental and			
11	emotional distress.				
12	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereinafter provided.				
13		PRAYER FOR RELIEF			
14	1.	For economic and non-economic damages in the amount according to proof at			
15		trial.			
16	2.	For punitive damages against Defendant Accornero in an amount according to			
17		proof.			
18	3.	For costs of the suit including reasonable attorney's fees;			
19	4.	For prejudgment interest at the prevailing legal rate;			
20	5.	For such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.			
21	DATED: Sep	<u>stember 13, 2007.</u>			
22		LAW OFFICES OF BONNER AND BONNER			
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26 27	li.	A. CABRAL BONNER, ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF			
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		COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES			